United Nations E/AC.51/2016/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 February 2016

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-sixth session
Organizational session, 21 April 2016
Substantive session, 31 May-24 June 2016
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
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   (b) Programme planning:
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      (ii) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019;
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4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session.

16-01473 (E) 080216

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chair, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups and decided on the following pattern of rotation for the post of the Chair: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asia-Pacific States. The Committee also decided that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that occupied the post of the Chair in the previous year.

At its fifty-sixth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chair from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation among regional groups, and the Rapporteur from the Group of Eastern European States, the regional group that occupied the post of Chair of the Committee the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its fifty-sixth session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Council and the General Assembly. In its resolution 59/267, the Assembly invited the Committee, in performing its programmatic, coordination, monitoring and evaluation functions, as set out in its mandate, to consider relevant reports of the Unit. The Assembly, in its resolution 67/236, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in the report on its fifty-second session (A/67/16), including its recommendation that the Assembly urge the Unit to intensify its efforts to introduce to the Committee reports relevant to the function of the Committee, bearing in mind subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e) of article 11 of the statute of the Unit. In that connection, the Committee will select, at its organizational meeting, under agenda item 2, the report or reports of the Unit that it will consider at its fifty-sixth session under agenda item 5.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236, decision 54/474 and resolution 70/8, attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8,[1] which contains the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

[1] To be revised and reissued under a new symbol number in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/8.

By its resolution 64/229, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in the report on its forty-ninth session (A/64/16), including the decisions not to include the agenda item "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination" in future sessions and to discuss related matters under the agenda item "Adoption of the agenda and organization of work" as and when needed.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the fifty-sixth session (E/AC.51/2016/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (E/AC.51/2016/L.2)

3. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation provides that:

> The Secretary-General shall monitor accomplishments by subprogramme, as measured by indicators of achievement and the delivery of outputs scheduled in the approved programme budget, through the Department of Management. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period.

In its resolution 58/269, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", the General Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system and, in that regard, urged the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that resources were clearly identified in all the sections of the proposed programme budget for the performance of the monitoring and evaluation functions.

In its resolution 59/275, the General Assembly, by endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its forty-fourth session (A/59/16), decided that the relevant programme of the proposed strategic framework would be considered in conjunction with the corresponding section of the programme performance report and that, since the programme performance report reflects the period two bienniums prior to that covered by the proposed strategic framework, the Secretariat would formally present updated information on the relevant parts of the programme performance report on the understanding that such updated information would also be considered.

In its resolutions 62/224 and 63/247, the Assembly reaffirmed the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in reviewing performance and evaluation reports.

By its resolution 63/247, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.A of the report on its forty-

eighth session (A/63/16), including the recommendation that the Secretary-General provide more detailed information on the outcome of monitoring and evaluation at the departmental and executive levels, taking into account, in particular, how lessons learned were shared and applied in planning activities, and the recommendation that the Secretary-General improve consistency and harmonize the presentation of the information regarding challenges, obstacles and unmet goals across all programmes.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 65/244, endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fiftieth session (A/65/16), in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to improve the programme performance report and, in that regard, to emphasize the need for more clarity and explanation concerning the implementation rate, as well as the reasons for addition, postponement and termination of outputs.

In its resolution 67/236, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fifty-second session, including the recommendation that the Secretary-General include in future programme performance reports comprehensive information on the impact of the reduction in the number of printed documents on the intergovernmental decision-making process in United Nations conferences and meetings, and the recommendation that the Secretary-General fully explain in future programme performance reports the termination or postponement of outputs and activities owing to vacancies of posts funded under the regular budget.

In its resolution 69/17, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.A of the report on its fifty-fourth session (A/69/16), including the recommendation that, with the purpose of improving the presentation of the report, the Secretary-General include in future reports, under each section of the programme, the following information: (a) a comparison with the previous biennium of the rate of implementation of mandated outputs; (b) a comparison with the previous biennium of additional outputs implemented at the initiative of the Secretariat; and (c) information on the main factors affecting the implementation of mandated outputs, when the rate of implementation for the biennium was below 90 per cent.

In its conclusions and recommendations the Committee stressed the importance of the Secretariat using programme performance reports as a management tool in the strategic framework planning process, in line with the principles of results-based management, including by regularly reviewing programme performance.

Regarding the impact of the reduction in the number of printed documents on the intergovernmental decision-making process in United Nations conferences and meetings, the Committee noted that the report of the Secretary-General did not contain the information requested by the General Assembly. It therefore recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to pursue the full implementation of the decision in future programme performance reports. The Committee further noted the information provided on the delivery of paper-smart services to several meetings, including high-level meetings. In that context, it recalled that the paper-smart concept was being implemented on a pilot basis, as decided by the Assembly in resolution 66/233.

In its resolution 70/8, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation contained in chapter II.A of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fifth session (A/70/16).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015

(b) Programme planning

In its resolution 58/269, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the four-year medium-term plan, which would comprise in one document:

(a) Part one: a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part two: a biennial programme plan, to cover two years.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly also affirmed that the strategic framework should constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and decided to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one.

By its resolution 62/224, the General Assembly considered the recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III.B of the report on its forty-seventh session (A/62/16), including the recommendations to maintain the strategic framework as the principal policy directive of the United Nations with effect from the biennium 2010-2011 and to continue to include part one, plan outline, in the strategic framework; the recommendation that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to improve the format of part one and the reflection of the longer-term objectives therein; and the recommendation that the Assembly reaffirm that the Committee should, in performing its programmatic role in the planning and budgeting process, continue to review the programmatic aspects of the new and/or revised mandates approved subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan, as well as any differences that might arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with its terms of reference, the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and reiterated that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should continue to

perform its role in reviewing the strategic framework and to recommend any necessary changes to the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly.

By its resolution 67/236, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee set out in chapter II.B of the report on its fifty-second session, in which the Committee reiterated the importance of the long-term objectives of the Organization, which were aimed at ensuring the full achievement of its goals, and in that regard, stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the Secretariat to improve the formulation of suitable expected accomplishments in such a way as to ensure that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States would be included for their effective and efficient implementation. The Committee, while recognizing the improvements in the logical framework, recommended that the Assembly encourage programme managers to continue to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to allow for better evaluation of results, bearing in mind that indicators should be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

By endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure, when preparing future plan outlines, that the proposed strategic frameworks took fully into account the guidelines provided by the Assembly in its resolutions 59/275, 61/235, 62/224 and 63/247, as well as subsequent relevant resolutions, so that the outlines reflected more accurately the longer-term objectives of the Organization, based on all mandates approved by Member States.

The General Assembly further endorsed the recommendation that the Secretary-General present concrete measures and information on actions taken to promote a culture of accountability within the Secretariat in future strategic frameworks, in accordance with its resolution 66/257.

In its resolution 70/8, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, as well as on proposals to improve the implementation of results-based budgeting, contained in chapter II.A of the report on its fifty-fifth session. In doing so, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement measured achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to take forward specific and concrete measures to revise the logical frameworks and improve them, to the extent possible, so as to more clearly indicate the impact of the activities implemented, in preparation for the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General: consolidated report on the changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: part one, plan outline and part two, biennial programme plan (individual programmes) (General Assembly resolutions 59/275, 62/224, 67/236 and 69/17)

(c) Evaluation

Triennial review

By its resolution 68/20, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter II.B of the report on its fifty-third session (A/68/16), including the recommendation on the programme evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Committee, at its fifty-sixth session, will undertake a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations of the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Documentation

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Environment Programme (E/AC.51/2016/___)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (E/AC.51/2016/___)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-third session on the programme evaluation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/AC.51/2016/___)

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2015.

In its resolution 70/8, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III.A of the report on its fifty-fifth session on the annual overview report of CEB for 2014. By endorsing the conclusions and recommendations, the Assembly recognized the contributions of CEB to the enhancement of United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination in policy, operational and management matters, as well as to the harmonization and simplification of business practices; welcomed the instances in which opportunities for efficiencies and the reduction of administrative and procedural burdens had been created, aiming at increasing the coherence, coordination, effectiveness, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system; and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to address that issue.

In addition, the General Assembly brought to the attention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the need to ensure that the Board's

activities and initiatives, including those relating to system-wide coherence, encompassing also the voluntary adoption of "Delivering as one" as defined in Assembly resolution 67/226, section IV.C, were fully in line with intergovernmental mandates as well as to ensure enhanced alignment of the measures of the High-level Committee on Management with the existing United Nations legislative framework, including in the area of procurement. In that regard, the Assembly recalled paragraph 22 of its resolution 69/273, and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to promote the strategic use of long-term agreements and to continue the efforts of the Board to enhance collaboration on procurement activities, including increasing the opportunities for vendors from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Assembly also noted the initiative of CEB to share good practices in performance management through the exchange of experiences among human resources directors of participating organizations, and requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to continue to promote good practices among participating organizations.

The Committee having emphasized the key role to be played by the Board in ensuring coordinated United Nations system-wide support in the preparation of and follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with relevant intergovernmental mandates, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to include information on ways and means of strengthening that role to foster policy coherence in the United Nations system in the report of the Board to the Committee at its fifty-sixth session.

In its conclusions and recommendations the Committee took note of the establishment of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and of the Joint Operations Facility in Brazil as an effort to streamline key operational areas of participating agencies by consolidating support services. With respect to the latter, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of CEB, to provide an update on the matter in the context of the next report of the Board.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2015 (E/2016/__)

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In its resolution 60/257, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter IV.B of the report on its forty-fifth session (A/60/16 and Corr.1) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), including the recommendation that the Secretary-General report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the progress, including problems, obstacles and challenges, as well as the goals of the United Nations system, to be achieved in support of NEPAD.

In its resolution 70/8, the General Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee contained in chapter III.B of the report on its fifty-fifth session on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the recommendation that the Assembly endorse the

conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 104 to 116 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2015/10) and the recommendation that the Secretary-General include, in his future reports, detailed information related to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.

By endorsing the conclusions and recommendations, the Assembly reiterated its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all their normative and operational activities and to coordinate closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in order to support the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 of the African Union Commission and the 10-year implementation plan for the African Union Agenda 2063.

The Committee further recommended that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD should continue to include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on other tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa as well as enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, with regard to the resources.

The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continued to include information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda, and information on the activities undertaken to support countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence. It recommended that the report of the Secretary-General include information on the efforts of United Nations entities to support the region in combating new challenges relating to governance, young people, extremism and terrorism.

Moreover, the Committee having recognized the important role of hard infrastructure in Africa, in particular energy, railways and highways, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area.

Lastly, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to include detailed information on the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism in his reports on NEPAD.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2016/__).

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under agenda item 5, the Committee will consider the relevant report of the Joint Inspection Unit, to be decided upon by the Committee during its organizational session on 21 April 2016.

Documentation

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see E/AC.51/2016/L.2)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-seventh session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents, their contribution to its work, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-seventh session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2016/L.3).

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

The report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting to be held in July 2016 and to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its fifty-sixth session (E/AC.51/2016/L.4 and addenda).

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2016[a]

Membership in 2016	*Term expires on 31 December*
Argentina	2018
Armenia	2017
Belarus	2017
Benin	2016
Brazil	2017
Burkina Faso	2017
Cameroon	2017
China	2016
Cuba	2017
Equatorial Guinea	2017
Ethiopia	2016
France	2018
Haiti	2016
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2017
Iraq	2017
Italy	2017
Japan	2016
Morocco	2016
Namibia	2017
Pakistan	2017
Peru	2018
Portugal	2017
Republic of Korea	2016
Russian Federation	2018
Saudi Arabia	2017
Ukraine	2017

Membership in 2016	*Term expires on 31 December*
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2017
United Republic of Tanzania	2018
United States of America	2017
Uruguay	2017
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2017
Zimbabwe	2018

[a] The Economic and Social Council decided to further postpone the nomination of two members from Western European and other States, one for a term beginning on the date of election by the General Assembly and expiring on 31 December 2017 and one for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2016 (see Council decisions 2015/201 B and D and General Assembly decision 70/414.